

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 EB-07 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 HEW-06 FDRE-00 AF-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5012

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS GENEVA 6043

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, EGEN

SUBJECT: 59TH ECOSOC: ITEM NO. 20 -- ASSISTANCE IN DISASTERS
(UNDRO)

REF: (A) GENEVA 5871; (B) STATE 175044; (C) GENEVA 5936

1. DRAFT RESOLUTION E/AC.24 L/519, SUBSTANTIALLY REVISED
PER ATTACHED TEXT, WAS REINTRODUCED BY PERU ON
BEHALF OF COSPONSORS AND ADOPTED IN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JULY 29 WITHOUT VOTE. (BRAZIL FOR UNEXPLAINED REASON
WAS NO LONGER LISTED AS COSPONSOR.)

2. REVISION WAS RESULT OF PAINSTAKING NEGOTIATION IN
GROUP CONSISTING OF PERU, MEXICO, GUATEMALA, SENEGAL AND
TURKEY (ALL OF WHOM WERE AMONG COSPONSORS), PLUS FRG,
NETHERLANDS, UK AND US. DENMARK (WHO SPOKE FOR SCANDI-
NAVIANS) WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND, BUT WE KEPT THEM ABREAST
AND THEY AGREED WITH OUR POSITION AND WITH FINAL RESULT.
THUS ALL PRESENT CONTRIBUTORS TO EXISTING
VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND FOR UNDRO WERE DIRECTLY OR IN-
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DIRECTLY REPRESENTED.

3. REVISIONS IN THE MAIN CONFORM TO THE LINES WE PROPOSED TO FOLLOW PER REFTEL (C), AND WE ARE QUITE SATISFIED WITH RESULTS, AS ARE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS UNDRO ITSELF. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS:

(A) PREAMBLE (THIRD AND FOURTH PARAS) CLARIFIES MORE ADEQUATELY THE TWO PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS TAKEN UP IN RESOLUTION, NAMELY FUNDING OF (1) SMALL DONATIONS NOW PROVIDED IN REGULAR BUDGET FOR UNDRO AND (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COSTS FOR PRE-DISASTER PLANNING AND PREVENTION, NOW DRAWN FROM WORKING CAPITAL FUND.

(B) OPERATIVE PARA 3 RECOMMENDS UNGA CONSIDER INCREASING THESE AMOUNTS, WITHIN REVISED LIMITS. THIS PARA IS NEW, AS THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE INCREASE IN ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, INTERMEDIATE WORKING DRAFT CONTAINED FLAT SANCTION FOR INCREASED MENTION OF LIMITS, SO WE CONSIDER FINAL LANGUAGE A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT AND ENTIRELY REASONABLE IN VIEW OF FACTORS MENTIONED PARAS 5(B) AND (C) OF REFTEL (C).

(C) RECOMMENDATION IN ORIGINAL PROPOSAL THAT UNGA ESTABLISH NEW VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THESE PURPOSES WAS DROPPED. INSTEAD, OPERATIVE PARA 4 RECOMMENDS UNGA URGENTLY CONSIDER DETERMINING PROPER SOURCE OR SOURCES FOR FUNDING THESE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF USING FRAMEWORK OF PRESENT VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND (I.E. OF ESTABLISHING SPECIAL ACCOUNT IN PRESENT TRUST FUND FOR FINANCING ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES).

(D) APPEAL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN OPERATIVE PARA 5 WAS LEFT INTENTIONALLY OPEN-ENDED SO AS TO APPLY IMPLICITLY BOTH TO SHORTFALL IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEET PRESENT PURPOSES OF TRUST FUND FOR THREE-YEAR PERIOD AND TO POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDITIONAL PURPOSES CONTEMPLATED IN RESOLUTION SHOULD UNGA DECIDE ON THIS COURSE.

(E) SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS (BUT HARMLESS) OPERATIVE PARA 2 RE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER PREVENTION WAS ADDED AT REQUEST OF SENEGAL. IN POINT OF FACT, UNDRO HAS SUCH PROJECT WELL UNDERWAY INCLUDING

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TECHNICAL INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES
SUCH AS WMO.

4. BEGIN TEXT:

ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTER AND OTHER DISASTER
SITUATIONS

ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, GUATEMALA, MEXICO, PERU,
ROMANIA, SENEGAL AND TURKEY: REVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

RECALLING GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2816 (XXVI) OF 14 DECEMBER
1971 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
3243 (XXIX) OF 29 NOVEMBER 1974 ON STRENGTHENING OF THE
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR,

RECALLING ALSO ITS RESOLUTION 1891 (LVIII) OF 31 JULY 1974 ON
ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTER AND OTHER DISASTER
SITUATIONS,

RECALLING IN PARTICULAR (A) OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 10 OF GENERAL
ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2816 (XXVI) OF 14 DECEMBER 1971, UNDER WHICH
LIMITED FUNDS AT PRESENT INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR BUDGET ARE
AVAILABLE TO THE CO-ORDINATOR FOR MATTERS OF EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE, AND (B) GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3152 (XXVIII)
OF 14 DECEMBER 1973 AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AS AN
INTERIM MEASURE, TO DRAW ON THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND
UP TO 1975 FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS IN PRE-
PARING TO MEET NATURAL DISASTERS,

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NOTING WITH CONCERN PARAGRAPHS 12 AND 13 OF THE REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER
RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR, IN WHICH HE REFERS TO THE NEED FOR TAKING
A DECISION ON FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE CO-ORDINATOR'S OFFICE FROM
1976 ONWARDS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES STRICKEN
BY DISASTERS AND FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION TO PREVENT AND
PREPARE FOR DISASTERS,

AWARE THAT THE OFFICE OF THE DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR, IN
ADDITION TO BEING STRENGTHENED AS PROVIDED FOR IN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3243 (XXIX), SHOULD BE GIVEN THE REQUISITE
MEANS TO DISCHARGE MORE EFFECTIVELY ITS TASKS OF EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION,

RECALLING ONCE AGAIN THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DISASTERS ON THE

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN THE COUNTRIES AFFECTED, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,

1. TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR, AND OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CO-ORDINATOR WITH RESPECT TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND OTHER DISASTER SITUATIONS;
 2. REQUESTS THAT QUALITATIVE DATA NECESSARY FOR THE FORMULATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION OF DISASTERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BY BODIES COMPETENT IN THIS SUBJECT;
 3. RECOMMENDS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION, CONSIDER INCREASING, WITHIN REVISED LIMITS, THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE CO-ORDINATOR FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES STRICKEN BY DISASTERS AND FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION TO PREVENT AND PREPARE FOR DISASTERS;
 4. RECOMMENDS ALSO THAT, AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO DETERMINING THE PROPER SOURCE OR SOURCES FOR FUNDING THESE ACTIVITIES, SUGGESTING, AS A POSSIBILITY, THAT THE EXISTING VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND AS ESTABLISHED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3243 (XXIX) FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE OFFICE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR COULD ALSO SERVE AS A FRAMEWORK FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS
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FOR THESE PURPOSES;

5. INVITES GOVERNMENTS OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND/OR MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AFOREMENTIONED VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND IN ORDER TO PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE, SIGNIFICANT AND CONTINUING ACTION BY THE CO-ORDINATOR TO HELP COUNTRIES STRICKEN BY NATURAL DISASTERS. END TEXT.
- DALE

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